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Intro

Developments is a newsletter for Autism CARES legislation grantees, published by AUCD's Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (ITAC) in partnership with AMCHP's State Public Health Autism Resource Center (SPHARC). Its purpose is to share news, activities, events, research, and accomplishments across grantee areas - research, training, and state implementation

MCHB Minute

[Update from the Division of MCH Workforce Development](#)

On behalf of Maternal and Child Health Bureau's (MCHB) Autism staff, I wish you a happy new year! With the end of the 2019, we took time to step back and reflect on some of our significant accomplishments over the past year across the Autism CARES network. Of particular note, we celebrated 10 years of Autism CARES implementation and recognized the enormous advances that we have collectively achieved. In 2019, MCHB was delighted to award new and continuing grants to continue to advance the Autism CARES goals, to convene grantees in a variety of settings to foster collaboration and sharing of effective practices, and to work with you to address emerging issues and ongoing challenges in the field. [Read more...](#)

CARES Network Announcements

[2019 Autism CARES Grantee Meeting - Archive Available](#)

The meeting materials have been archived and are now available on the [2019 Autism CARES event page](#) of AUCD's website. Stay tuned for announcements about virtual activities for Autism CARES grantees in 2020! [Read more...](#)

[Seeking Volunteers / Nominations for a New Autism CARES Planning Committee](#)

To follow up on the successful 2019 in-person Autism CARES grantee meeting, AUCD (in partnership with HRSA-MCHB and AMCHP) will be establishing a planning committee for one or more virtual activities to take place in 2020. [Read more...](#)

Research Roundup

[AIR-P Network Activities](#)

The Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P), led by Karen Kuhlthau, PhD, conducts research on evidence-based interventions to improve the physical health and well-being of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities, with an emphasis on reaching underserved communities. [Read More...](#)

[Disseminating AIR-B Research in the Community](#)

One important goal of the Autism Intervention Research Network for Behavioral Health (AIR-B) is to increase awareness of autism services, current research, and evidence-based interventions in the local regions of each of its network partners: University of Pennsylvania, UC Davis MIND Institute, University of Rochester, and University of California, Los Angeles Center for Autism Research & Treatment (UCLA CART). As part of the AIR-B III program, each site hosts a local

conference during one year of the award. [Read more...](#)

[Preschool Children with ADHD Often Treated with Alpha-2 Agonists](#)

The Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Research Network (DBPNet) is studying the pharmacological management of preschool aged children diagnosed with ADHD in 7 outpatient developmental-behavioral pediatric programs at academic medical centers. [Read more...](#)

[Social Differences Between Monolingual English and Bilingual English-Spanish Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)

A chart review was performed of 38 children diagnosed with Bilingualism is increasingly prevalent; however, research in bilingual children with autism is sparse. The purpose of this study was to compare social skills and autistic features in monolingual English and bilingual English-Spanish children with autism spectrum disorder. [Read more...](#)

[Building an Autism Friendly Hospital: How we started, what we have accomplished, and where we go from here](#)

To improve the hospital experience for patients with ASD and their families, the Autism Program at Boston Medical Center (BMC) launched the Autism Friendly Initiative in January 2017. The initiative began with the formation of a multidisciplinary steering committee involving clinicians and staff from various departments across the hospital (e.g., Nursing, Dental, Facilities, and Security) as well as parents of individuals with ASD.

[Beta-adrenergic antagonism alters functional connectivity during associative processing in a preliminary study of individuals with and without autism](#)

This study used qualitative methods to gather family and provider perspectives of perceived barriers and facilitators to obtaining an ASD diagnosis and accessing ASD-related services for underserved families. Themes from focus groups and interviews with families from three cultural groups (black, Hispanic/Latino, and Korean) and three primary languages (English, Korean, and Spanish) highlight specific barriers related to family, community, and systemic challenges as well as facilitators to accessing care for these populations.

[Read more...](#)

[Advances in Autism Research and Care Webinar Series: 2020 Schedule](#)

Please join the Autism Speaks Autism Treatment Network/Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health for our upcoming Advances in Autism Research and Care (AARC) webinar series scheduled for 2020! [Read more...](#)

Training Topics

[NH-ME LEND and New Mainers Public Health Initiative - An Interagency Parent Advocacy and Information Project](#)

Over the past two decades, Maine has experienced a rapid growth of racially, ethnically and linguistically diverse populations. Although Maine's population is largely White (95%), children in Maine are disproportionately from minority populations; currently 9% of children in Maine are from a race other than White. [Read More...](#)

[NJLEND Culture and Family Panel Exchange](#)

NJ LEND Fellows Muna Khalif (pictured in center) and Jennifer Reiter (pictured at right) are participating in the non-profit organization's Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction for Parents of Kids with Special Needs course, a seven-week class developed by Vanderbilt University. They hope to integrate the techniques into their own lives and then create opportunities for bringing them to more parents across Minnesota. [Read More...](#)

[MN LEND Fellows Explore the Power of Mindfulness](#)

MN LEND Fellows Muna Khalif (pictured in center) and Jennifer Reiter (pictured at right) are participating in the non-profit organization's Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction for Parents of Kids with Special Needs course, a seven-week class developed by Vanderbilt University. They hope to integrate the techniques into their own lives and then create opportunities for bringing them to more parents across Minnesota. [Read more...](#)

[BCH/LEND Faculty Presentation on ASD in Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#)

Amy Szarkowski, PhD, is a psychologist who specializes in working with children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) and their families. She is a faculty member with the Boston Children's Hospital LEND Program (BCH/LEND), and is part of the Institute for Community Inclusion at BCH and the University of Massachusetts, Boston. In September 2019, Dr. Szarkowski gave a keynote address at the Scarlett's Park conference in CA, an annual conference highlighting special topics related to DHH

State Stories

[Updates from the State Public Health Autism Resource Center](#)

SPHARC, in partnership with HRSA, recently held an October in-person kick off meeting in Arlington, VA for the newly awarded Autism Community of Learners 2019-2022 state grantee cohort. This meeting laid the foundation for relationship-building and collaborative community for the subsequent grant years. [Read more...](#)

[Waisman Center UCEDD and Community Partners Launch an Equity Action Lab in Rural Wisconsin](#)

The Wisconsin Care Integration Initiative (WiCII) is a HRSA-funded project at the Waisman Center to improve systems of care for medically underserved families of children with or at risk for ASD/DD. In order to support community-driven solutions in this area, WiCII brought together parents, policymakers, and community and state leaders to participate in the "100 Million Healthier Lives States of Solutions" program. [Read more...](#)

Collaborators' Corner

[Learn the Signs. Act Early. AMCHP's State Systems Grant: Eight Years in Review](#)

The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) is excited to announce the release of a new interactive resource called "Learn the Signs. Act Early. AMCHP's State Systems Grant: Eight Years in Review." This product presents a review of AMCHP's Learn the Signs. Act Early. (LTSAE) state systems grants, which are a part of the larger CDC LTSAE initiative. It also highlights the activities and outcomes of these grants and delves into the impacts on state systems of care and lessons learned. [Read more...](#)

[Minnesota LEND Fellow Joins Autism Society of Minnesota to Partner with Multicultural Communities](#)

The Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM) has hired Ashwak Hassan (MNLEND Fellow, 2015-16) to help multicultural families affected by autism navigate and access services that lead to better lives and communities. Under a two-year Minnesota Department of Human Services Innovations Grant, Hassan will bring AuSM together with the Somali American Parent Network and the Multicultural Autism Action Network to streamline how families navigate services and increase their participation and meaningful engagement with culturally appropriate supports. [Read more...](#)

[New AAP Clinical Report: Promoting Optimal Development](#)

The importance of early identification and intervention for children with developmental disorders has been widely adopted through the incorporation of developmental surveillance and screening into routine pediatric care. A new AAP clinical report provides pediatric clinicians with updated recommendations to expand this practice to promote the optimal development of every child. [Read more...](#)

[New AAP Clinical Report: Identification, Evaluation, and Management of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

Representing the first update in 12 years, an AAP clinical report on autism spectrum disorder (ASD), from the Council on Children with Disabilities and Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, will be published in the January issue of Pediatrics. [Read more...](#)

ITAC Items

[AUCD Central Office is Hiring!!](#)

Interested in working for a national disability organization in the Washington, DC area? Passionate about growing diverse and skilled leaders? If you or someone you know can answer "yes" to any or all of these questions, consider working for AUCD! [Read more...](#)

[Now Archived: 2019 MCH Workforce Development Virtual Grantee Meeting](#)

This annual meeting was an opportunity for Division of Maternal and Child Health Workforce Development (DMCHWD) grantees to convene and network around a cross-cutting topic of interest. The meeting was hosted by AUCD's Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (ITAC). [Read More...](#)

News from HHS

[IAAC Call for Nominations](#)

The Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is seeking nominations of individuals to serve as non-federal public members on the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC). [Read more...](#)

Meetings

[Annual Disability Statistics Compendium Event](#)

February 11, 2020 - Washington, DC

[PacRim2020](#)

March 2-3, 2020 - Honolulu, HI

[Disability Policy Seminar 2020 and AUCD Policy Forum](#)

March 22-25, 2020 - Washington, DC

[2020 Leadership Academy](#)

June 21-26, 2020 - Atlanta, GA

Upcoming Activities

[Webinars](#)

Join the [AUCD Autism Special Interest Group](#).

About

Developments is a newsletter for Autism CARES programs funded under MCHB. The content of this newsletter has been generated by program staff and trainees, and does not necessarily reflect the views and policies of HRSA-MCHB. No official support or endorsement by HRSA-MCHB is intended or should be inferred. This publication is funded in part by cooperative agreement #UA5MC11068.